

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024018
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AGRE-00
STR-04 COME-00 OPIC-03 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
INT-05 NSC-05 PRS-01 H-01 ITC-01 /080 R

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EUR/RPE:ECASEY
EUR/WE:EBEIGEL
EB/OBP:TSCHLENKER
EB/ISM:AKOBLER
TREASURY:WBARREDA
USDA:SAHALT
STR:RMATTHEISEN
COMMERCE:RFRANCIS / TGILLETT
-----031123Z 034127 /14

R 022351Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION OECD PARIS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: ETRD, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH RESTRICTIONS ON PHOSPHATE IMPORTS

REF: PARIS 2659

1. FERTILIZER INSTITUTE HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT SALES OF U.S.-ORIGIN DAP AND TRIPLE SUPERPHOSPHATES TO FRANCE ARE CONTINUING AT VERY HIGH LEVEL. INSTITUTE SAYS ITS MEMBERS REPORT ADMINISTRATIVE VISA ISSUANCE IS ROUTINE, ALBEIT SOMETIMES ANNOYING, FOR SHIPMENTS TO CONSIGNEES, AND THAT MAJOR PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH SHIPMENTS FOR SALE ON OPEN MARKET. THESE LATTER SHIPMENTS WOULD NORMALLY BE SOLD AT VERY LOW PRICES WHICH, IN FRENCH VIEW, DISRUPT MARKET. FERTILIZER INSTITUTE FURTHER REPORTS THAT U.S. FERTILIZER EXPORTERS WELL AWARE OF PATTERN OF FRENCH CONDUCT IN VISA ISSUANCE, AND HAVE SOUGHT (GENERALLY SUCCESSFULLY) TO AVOID PROBLEMS BY CONTRACTING WITH SPECIFIC CONSIGNEES BEFORE SHIPMENTS ARRIVE IN FRENCH PORTS OR, FOR THOSE WILLING TO SHIP WITHOUT CONSIGNEE, BY SHIPPING TO ANTWERP FOR SALE TO BUYERS WHO THEN ARRANGE FOR SURFACE TRANSIT TO FRENCH MARKETS. USG REMAINS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, AT GOF USE OF VISA REQUIREMENT AS DEVICE TO REGULATE TRADE.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH GOF AT POLICY LEVEL AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. USG CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED OVER GOF USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE VISA TO REGULATE IMPORTS OF FERTILIZER. AS GOF KNOWS, USG HAS PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF EVEN AUTOMATIC IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES, IN MTN.

B. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOF IS CONSIDERING SAFEGUARD ACTION UNDER GATT ARTICLE XIX. USG HOPES THAT FRANCE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKE OTHER OECD COUNTRIES, WILL CONTINUE TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO HOLD THE LINE AGAINST IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THIS TIME OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY, AND WE HOPE THAT GOF WILL CONSIDER PROBLEM IN THIS BROADER CONTEXT. USG WOULD BE HAPPY TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH GOF AT TECHNICAL LEVEL TO REVIEW WORLD PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER SITUATION, INCLUDING CONDITIONS IN THE FRENCH MARKET.

C. WE HOPE THAT, IF GOF DECIDES TO TAKE ARTICLE XIX ACTION, IT WILL NOT CHARACTERIZE PROBLEMS OF ITS FERTILIZER INDUSTRY AS BROUGHT ABOUT BY UNFAIR, PREDATORY PRACTICES OF AMERICAN FIRMS. SUCH A STATEMENT COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED FACTUALLY AND WOULD REQUIRE PUBLIC REFUTATION. OF COURSE, IF GOF DOES CHOOSE TO TAKE ARTICLE XIX ACTION, USG WILL RESERVE ITS RIGHTS WITH REGARD TO APPROPRIATE REMEDIES UNDER THAT ARTICLE.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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